

Background on the Aging Initiative



Protecting the Health of Older Americans

Why Focus on Older Persons?

- Different cohorts have different vulnerabilities.
- Even healthy individuals have diminished capacity (organ function & compensatory reserves) to detoxify & eliminate chemical toxicants.
- Individuals confronted with disease/illnesses associated with later years (Alzheimer's, Parkinson's' Disease).
- Individuals already afflicted with disease entering 65+ (Diabetes).
- Older adults have a legacy of past occupational and environmental exposures to persistent agents (DDE, PCB, Lead, mercury, asbestos).

World Projections

- “The remarkable demographic transition under way will result in the old and the young representing an equal share of the world’s population by mid-century.
- **Globally, the proportion of persons aged 60 years and older is expected to double between 2000 and 2050, from 10 to 21%**
- The proportion of children is projected to drop by a third, from 30 to 21 percent.”
- Source: 2nd World Assembly on Ageing – (Madrid International Plan of Action)

Projections

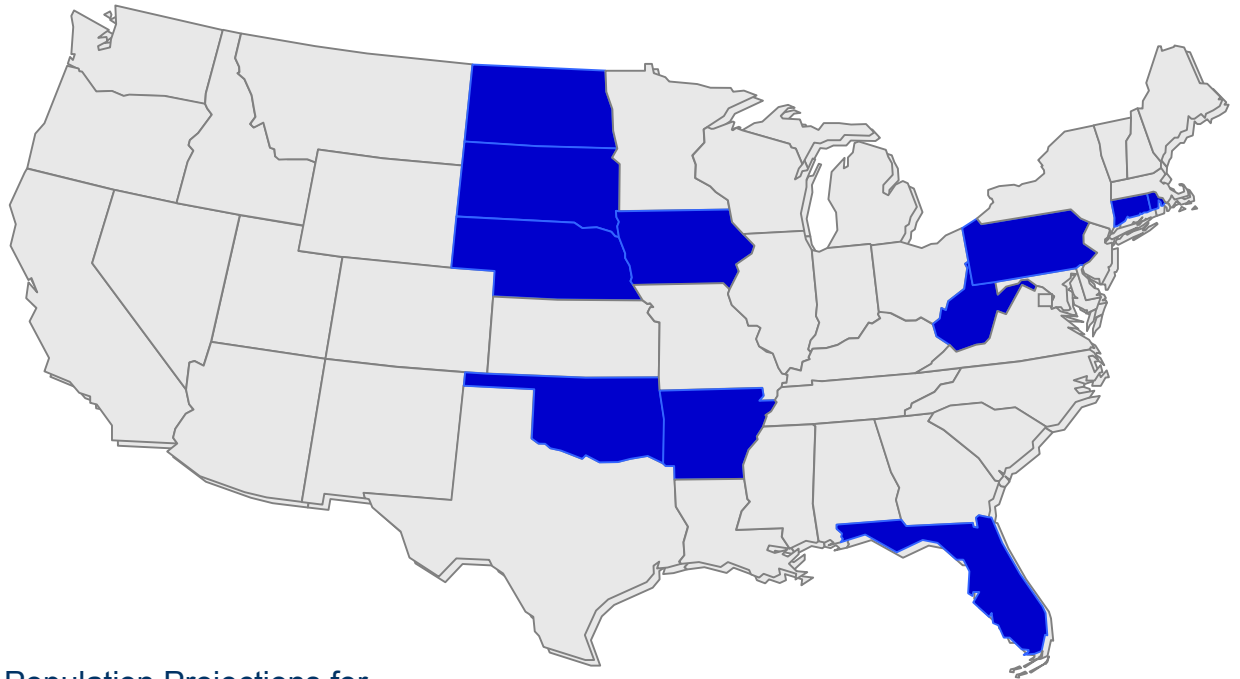
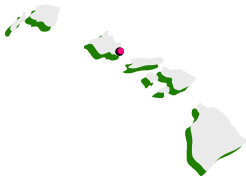
- Between 2030 and 2050, the 65+ pop. will double.
Largest birth cohort in US history
 - Baby boomers begin to turn 65 in 2011. (76 million Americans born between 1946 and 1964)
- The Population 85+ is both the frailest and the most rapidly increasing
 - **Today, 4 million Americans are over 85**
 - **By 2050, expected to be 19 million over 85**

U.S. State Projections 65+

- By 2011, all states will experience an increase in their 65+ population.
- In 2025, CA and FL will continue to rank #1 and 2nd in the number of persons 65+.
- TX will surpass NY and PA to rank 3rd.

States with Greatest Percentage of the Population 65+

11 states: 65+ population represents 14% - 18% total pop



Source: US Census Bureau, Population Projections for States by elected Age Groups and Sex: 1995-2025
www.census.gov/population/www/projections/stproj.html

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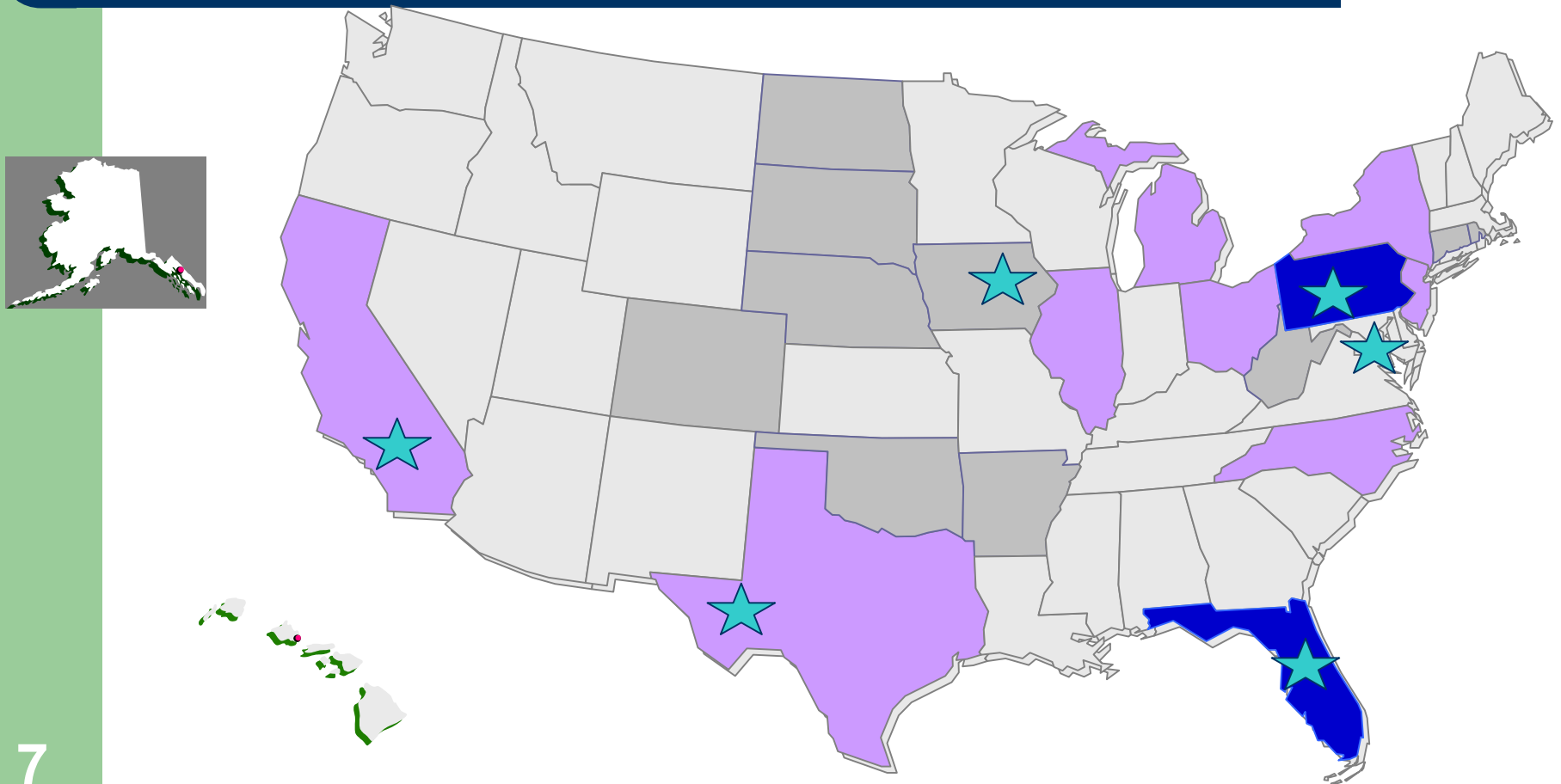
Purple – States with the greatest number of 65+ population

Grey – States with the greatest % of state population 65+

Blue – States with both the greatest # & % of state's pop. 65+



Public meetings will be held in CA, TX, IA, PA, FL, and MD

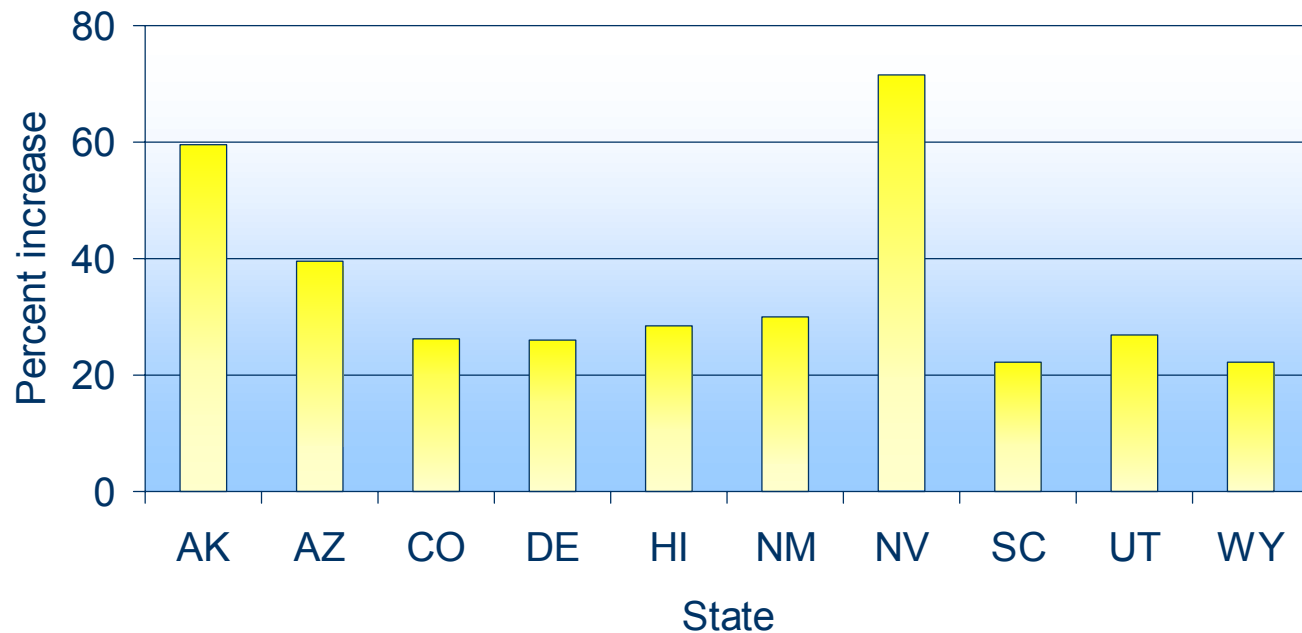


Ten Places of 100,000 or More Population with the Highest Proportion of their Population 65 years+

	Pop. 65+	Percent
• Clearwater, FL	23,357	21.5
• Cape Coral, FL	20,020	19.6
• Honolulu, HI	66,257	17.8
• St. Petersburg, FL	43,173	17.4
• Hollywood, FL	24,159	17.3
• Warren, MI	23,871	17.3
• Miami, FL	61,768	17.0
• Livonia, MI	16,988	16.9
• Scottsdale, AZ	33,884	16.7
• Hialeah, FL	37,679	16.6

- Source: The 65 Years and Over Population: 2000 Census 2000 Brief, Table 5

States with Greatest Increase in 65+ Population from 1990-2000



■ Percent increase from 1990-2000

Facts about Women and Children

- **By 2010, almost half of all women in the U.S. will be at least 50 years old.¹**
- **An increasing number of older people are providing care for grand and great-grandchildren.”²**

1 National Policy and Resources Center on Women and Aging at Brandeis University

2 Grantmakers in Aging “A Tool Kit Funding Across Ages”

EPA Inventory of Activities

- 76 projects FY96-FY06
- 50 research related projects
- 29 projects addressed particulate matter (PM), a form of air pollution.
 - PM is a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air. Sources of PM are motor vehicle emissions & industrial sources.

Interventions/Prevention Strategies

- Will differ: One-size will not fit all.
- Vital to delineate portion of the health risk attributable to environmental exposures vs. other stressors

What are some of the Environmental Health Hazards

- Microorganisms in drinking water (e coli, cryptosporidium)
- Pesticides
- Cleaning solvents (VOCs)
- Neurotoxicants lead & mercury
- Indoor & outdoor air pollutants (particulate matter)
- Extreme temperatures (Chicago summer 95)

Poison Control Center Data 1993-1998

- While the elderly accounted for only 2.8% of the reported incidents, they accounted for 5.9% of all cases with a moderate to major medical outcome and 28% of the deaths.
- Thus once exposed, the elderly are twice as likely to experience a serious outcome and ten times as likely to die.
- (Source: Dr. Jerry Blondell OPPTS, EPA)

NAS Report: Aging in Today's Environment (1987)

- “...unprecedented demographic phenomenon is occurring at a time of increasing complexity of environmental factors, including pollutants, pharmaceutical use, nutrition, and life-style.”
- (www.nap.edu/books/0309062276/html)

National Academy of Sciences, December 2002

- Workshop on the Differential Susceptibility and Exposure of Environmental Hazards to Older Persons
- Transcript available on website:
www.epa.gov/aging See National Agenda, and scroll down to National Academy of Sciences Workshop

Preparing for an Aging Society and Protecting the Environment

- Need to understand the environmental effects that may occur in meeting the needs of this population.
 - housing,
 - health care
 - recreation &
 - transportation
- Need to plan harmony between desired amenities & protection of natural resources
- Ensure ability for people to retire in place.

NATIONAL AGENDA FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE AGING

- Identifying research gaps in environmental health issues for older persons;
- Preparing for an aging society; and
- Encouraging older adults to volunteer to address environmental hazards.
 - See federal register notice on website www.epa.gov/aging

PUBLIC LISTENING SESSIONS

in 2003

- April 3rd Tampa, FL
- April 8th San Antonio, TX
- April 15th Iowa City, IA
- April 23rd Pittsburgh, PA
- April 29th Los Angeles, CA
- May 7th Baltimore, MD

Contribute to the National Agenda by September 30, 2003

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